

## GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted bacterial disease (STD) caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. In males, it is usually characterized by a purulent urethral discharge and dysuria. In females, initially there is a urethritis or cervicitis often so mild it may pass unnoticed. Depending upon sexual practices, pharyngeal and anorectal infections can occur. In males, the urethral infection is usually self-limiting; however, it may progress to epididymitis, and in rare cases, it can disseminate into an arthritis-dermatitis syndrome, endocarditis, and meningitis. Twenty percent of women infected with gonorrhea may progress to uterine infection, which may lead to endometritis or salpingitis (PID-Pelvic Inflammatory Disease) and the subsequent risk of infertility.

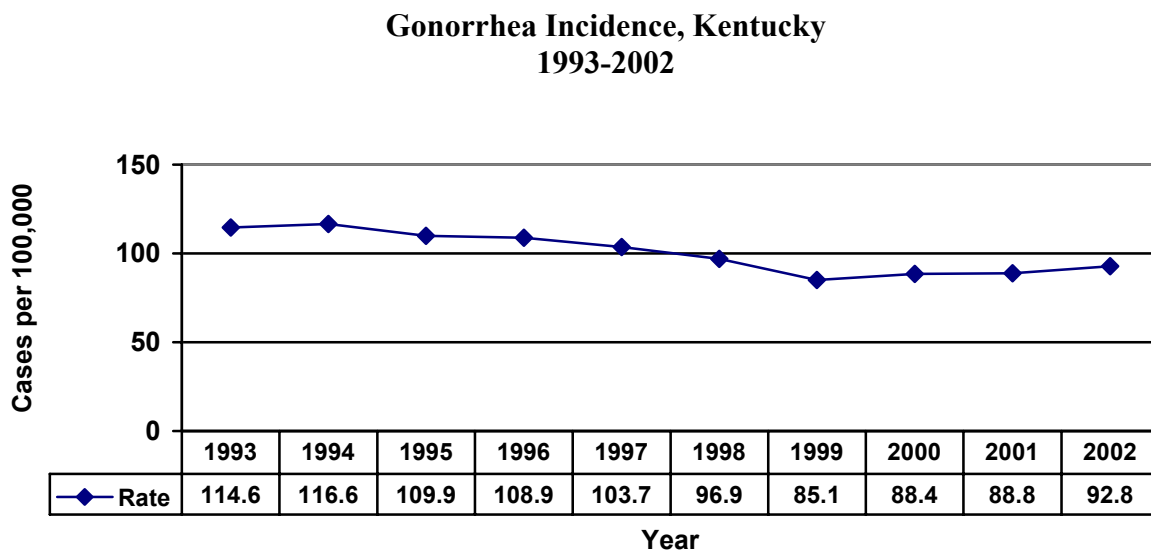
### Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Isolation of typical Gram-negative, oxidase-positive diplococci (presumptive *N. gonorrhoeae*) from clinical specimen, **OR**
- Demonstration of *N. gonorrhoeae* in a clinical specimen by detection of antigen or nucleic acid, **OR**
- Observation of Gram-negative intracellular diplococci in a urethral smear from a man.

### Case Classification

*Confirmed:* A case that is laboratory confirmed.

*Probable:* a) Demonstration of gram-negative intracellular diplococci in an endocervical smear obtained from a female or b) a written morbidity report of gonorrhea submitted by a physician.



## Epidemiology

|          |      |                  |                              |
|----------|------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Kentucky | 2002 | Rate per 100,000 | U.S. Rate (2001) per 100,000 |
| Cases    | 3772 | 92.8             | 128.5                        |

### Cases by Gender

|        |      |      |
|--------|------|------|
| Female | 1936 | 93.2 |
| Male   | 1834 | 92.2 |

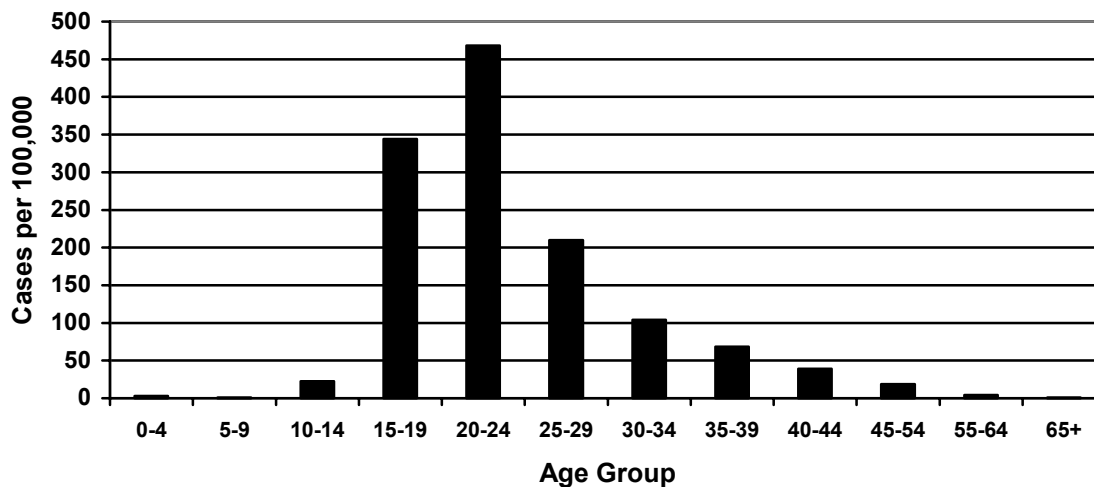
Gender not specified on two cases.

The highest incidence of gonorrhea by race was 649 cases per 100,000 in African-Americans. The Hispanic rate was 76.7 cases per 100,000, followed by the Caucasian rate at 25 cases per 100,000 and the Asian rate at 13.4 cases per 100,000.

Race was not specified on 23% of the reports.

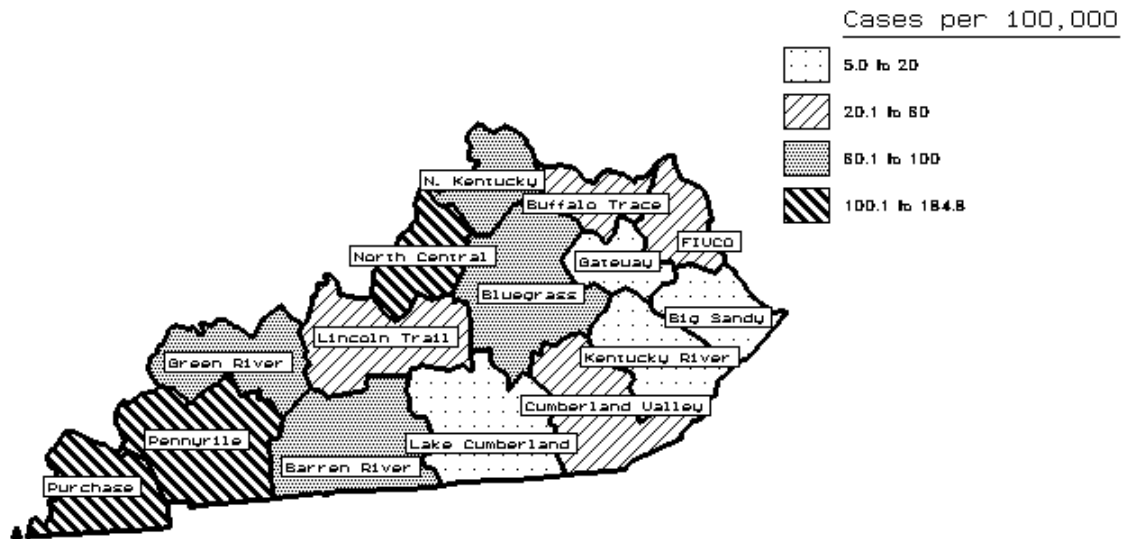
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**Gonorrhea, Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky  
2002**



The 20-24 year age group reported the highest number of cases, 468.0 per 100,000 followed by the 15-19 year age group, 344.2 cases per 100,000. This is a slight increase above 2001 rates for these two age groups.

## Gonorrhea Incidence by District, Kentucky 2002



The highest reported incidence occurred in the Pennyrile District (184.8 cases per 100,000), followed by the North Central District (162.7 cases per 100,000).

| District          | Annual Incidence Rate |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Purchase          | 106.9                 |
| Pennyrile         | 184.8                 |
| Green River       | 87.2                  |
| Barren River      | 98.4                  |
| Lincoln Trail     | 60.0                  |
| North Central     | 162.7                 |
| Northern Kentucky | 76.8                  |
| Buffalo Trace     | 30.6                  |
| Gateway           | 19.4                  |
| Fivco             | 30.9                  |
| Big Sandy         | 6.3                   |
| Kentucky River    | 5.0                   |
| Cumberland Valley | 28.0                  |
| Lake Cumberland   | 19.5                  |
| Bluegrass         | 95.9                  |